CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   An electronic system vulnerable to user interruptions of an initialization process during at least one interruption window, comprising:

control logic;

a plurality of switch logic devices independently controlled by said control logic;

a plurality of input ports, each coupled to a switch logic device; and

a plurality of output ports, each coupled to a switch logic device;

wherein said control logic causes said switch logic devices to disable operation of at least one input or output port during said at least one interruption window, thereby preventing interruption of said initialization process by said user.

2.   The electronic system of claim 1 wherein said control logic comprises a CPU, a control register accessible by said CPU, and a plurality of control signals adapted to couple said control register to said switch logic devices.

3.   The electronic system of claim 1 further comprising software loaded after operation of said at least one input or output port is disabled, and executable by said control logic to reject predetermined inputs from said plurality of input ports.

4.   The electronic system of claim 1 wherein said control logic causes said switch logic devices to enable said at least one input or output port after the completion of said initialization process.

5.   The electronic system of claim 1 wherein said control logic disables all of said plurality of output ports that are not coupled to an output device.

6.   The electronic system of claim 5 wherein the output port that is coupled to said output device includes cables adapted with anti-tamper connectors that preclude a user from removing said connectors from said output port or said output device.

7.   The electronic system of claim 1 wherein said plurality of output ports are adapted to couple to display devices.

8.   The electronic system of claim 1 further comprising a wireless device interface adapted to communicate with at least one wireless input device wherein said wireless device interface is not disabled by said switch logic devices during said at least one interruption window.

9.   The electronic system of claim 8 wherein a device driver rejects predetermined inputs from said at least one wireless input device during said at least one interruption window.

10.   The electronic system of claim 1 wherein said electronic system comprises a set top box.

11.   A method, usable in an electronic system comprising a plurality of input and output ports, each port capable of coupling to an input or output device, comprising:

        beginning an initialization process for said electronic system;

loading a first set of values into a control register to disable said at least one input or output port during said initialization process; and

loading a second set of values into said control register to enable the disabled at least one input or output port upon completion of said initialization process.

12.   The method of claim 11 wherein loading said first set of values comprises writing bits to said control register to disable all input ports and all but one output port.

13.   The method of claim 11 wherein loading said second set of values comprises writing bits to said control register to enable at least one input or output port.

14.   An electronic system comprising:

means for receiving input signals from one or more input devices;

means for providing output signals to one or more output devices; and

means for disabling the use of at least one input device while initializing said electronic system.

15.   The electronic system of claim 14 comprising means for subsequently enabling the use of said disabled at least one input device.

16.   The electronic system of claim 14 comprising means for disabling or enabling the use of at least one output device.